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CONSTITUTION,

BY - LAWS,

AND

MINUTES

OF THE

ASSOCIATION

OF

The Congregational Churches

OF NORTH CAROLINA,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 3, 1883.

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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
ASSOCIATION
OF THE
Congregational Churches and Ministers
OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ARTICLE I.

This Association shall be called The Association of the Congregational Churches and Ministers of North Carolina.

ARTICLE II.

This Association shall consist of the Pastors, and one Delegate from each of the churches within the body.

ARTICLE III.

Ordained ministers may become members by vote of the Association and by signing the Confession of Faith. Licentiates in our Churches may be received in like manner as Honorary Members. Visiting ministers and brethren may be received by vote, as Corresponding Members. Congregational Churches within this State, whose Articles of Faith accord in substance with those of this body, may be received by vote.

ARTICLE IV.

The Officers of this Association, who shall be chosen by ballot at each Annual Meeting, shall be a Moderator, and a Secretary who shall also act as Treasurer.

ARTICLE V.

The object of this Association shall be to promote intercourse and harmony among the Churches of the State, and to produce a more extensive co-operation in every good work.

ARTICLE VI.

The Association shall hold its Annual Meeting over the Sabbath, beginning the evening of the first Thursday in May.

ARTICLE VII.

The Lord's Supper shall be administered in connection with each Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Association shall establish its own By-Laws, subject to future alteration.

ARTICLE IX.

This Constitution may be altered at an Annual Meeting of this body by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

BY - LAWS.

1. At the appointed time for the Assembling of the Conference, the Moderator, in his absence, the Pastor of the Church where we meet, shall call the meeting to order, and preside until the new Moderator shall be elected.

2. The Roll shall be made out by calling the list of Churches and Ministers.

3. The Constitution and By-Laws shall then be read.

4. Next shall follow the Election of Officers, as provided by the Constitution, and the appointment of a Nominating Committee, a Business Committee, and one upon Religious Exercises.

5. The Moderator shall appoint the Nominating Committee, which, after that, shall make *all* other nominations, for the approval of the Association.

6. At each meeting of the Association, a preacher of the opening sermon and an alternate, shall be elected for the next meeting, and provision shall be made for the presentation of one or more moral literary exercises, such as an essay, an address or a review, to be followed by a discussion on the part of the Association.

7. For Parliamentary usage, we adopt the "Rules for Business Meetings" found on pages 33 to 35 of "Roy's Congregational Manual," except the first paragraph which refers to church action.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

Receiving the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God, and the only infallible rule of religious faith and practice, we confess our faith in the one living and true God, revealed as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; the Creator and Preserver of all things, whose purpose and providence extend to all events, and who exercises a righteous government over all his creatures.

We believe in the universal sinfulness and ruin of our race; since,—“by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, having taken upon himself our nature, has, by his obedience, sufferings and death, provided a way of salvation for all mankind; and that through faith in His name, whosoever will, may be saved.

We believe that, although salvation is freely offered to all, they only repent and believe in Christ, who, in thus obeying the Gospel, are regenerated by the Holy Spirit; and that all who are thus regenerated are “kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation.”

We believe that the Christian Sabbath, the Ministry of the Word, the Visible Church, and the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, are divinely appointed, and are binding on the followers of Christ until His coming.

We believe there is a day appointed in which God will raise the dead, and judge the world; that the wicked shall “go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.”

NOTE. “A. M. A.” wherever used in this Report stands for American Missionary Association. NO.—Number. CH.—Church. SAB.—Sabbath. CONG’AL—Congregational.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Conference, (now changed to Association), was held with the church at Raleigh May 4-7, 1883 commencing at 8 P. M. The opening Sermon was by Rev. Michael Jerkins of Beaufort. Text, Ro. 8, 9, 1. c. "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

After the preaching service, Rev. G. S. Smith called the Association to order. The Rev. D. D. Dodge was appointed to lead the Devotional Meeting to-morrow morning.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock A. M. to-morrow.

SECOND DAY—FRIDAY.

Association came together at 9 A. M. In the absence of the moderator, it was called to order by the secretary. Prayer was offered by Rev. W. H. Ellis. The moderator coming in took the chair.

Voted, That the hour from 10-11 A. M. be occupied in Devotional Exercises.

The Roll of Ministers and Delegates present, was then made out as follows :—

| CHURCHES. | MINISTERS. | DELEGATES. |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Beaufort, | Michael Jerkins, | Dea. L. S. Stephens, |
| McLeansville, 1st ch. | Alfred Connet, | Allen Roan, |
| Dudley, | J. E. B. Jewett, | Z. Simmons, |
| Wilmington, | D. D. Dodge, | Dea. Calvin Blunt, |
| Lassiter's Mills, | Islay Walden, | Mrs. E. Walden, |
| Raleigh, | Geo. S. Smith, | W. J. Matthews, |
| Troy, | W. H. Ellis, | Peter J. Scott, |
| Pekin, | W. H. Ellis, | Alexander Powell, |
| Oaks, | J. N. Ray, | Geo. Thomson, |
| McLeansville, 2d ch. | Alfred Connet, | Henry Dillard. |

The Constitution and By-Laws were then read. Also the records of the last meeting, which last, were approved by vote.

The Association next proceeding to the choice of officers for the ensuing year, elected Revs. D. D. Dodge as Moderator, and J. E. B. Jewett as Secretary and Treasurer.

The Committee on Nominations appointed by the chair,—Jerkins, Smith and Walden.

The Committee on Business,—Connet, Walden and Jerkins.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises,—Matthews, Connet and Powell.

It now being 10 o'clock, the next hour was occupied by Devotional Exercises, conducted by D. D. Dodge. It was an hour well spent.

Business was then resumed.

It was found that in the past, the ministers of the several churches of the State, by an *oversight*, had failed to sign the Constitution, which they now all proceeded to do, together with the pastors of the churches, which were represented in our body today for the first time.

The Field Supt., Rev. J. E. Roy, D. D., and several Lady Missionaries and Teachers employed by the A. M. A. who were present, were made Honorary Members.

The next exercise was an Essay by Jewett,—Subject,—“The Sabbath,—Its Proper Observance.”

Remarks were made on the subject of the Essay, by J. E. Roy, D. D., Connet, Walden, Smith, Ellis, Dodge, Miss Hayes, and by some of the Delegates. All advocated a strict and sacred observance of the Day.

The following item of business then came before the meeting.

Whereas, The President of the Shaw University, Rev. Dr. Tupper, has kindly extended to this Association an invitation to visit that Institution,—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Body be expressed to Pres. Tupper for the courtesy of this invitation, which it would give us great pleasure to accept, if it were consistent with the pressure of our business.

The Resolution was passed.

The meeting then took an intermission until 3 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, and the whole session was occupied in listening to the *Narratives* of the churches by their Delegates,—also, the Narratives of the Lady Missionaries from their fields of labor. The following is a brief outline of these Narratives.

BEAUFORT. No. members in the ch. 30 ; 19 added during the year ; 10 children baptized. A revival of religion last Feb. Average No. in Sab. School, 70. The church building has been thoroughly repaired. The Pastor is beloved. Everything is fairly prosperous.

DUDLEY. Total membership, 64. Added by profession 2 ; dismissed, 1 ; ex-communicated, 0 ; deaths, 0. Raised for Benevolent purpose, \$5.00 ; for church purposes, \$12.95 ; raised in Sab. School, \$5.90 ; raised towards Pastor's salary, \$45.20 ; total amount raised, \$79 05. Sabbath School just reorganized. No. already enrolled, 80. The meetings well attended. A good state of feeling in the church. Greater harmony than has existed for some years previous. Many things that look encouraging. One of our members hopes to-morrow to be set apart to the work of the gospel ministry. We hope that there are others among us who will follow his example.

Arrangements are being made for extensive repairs on the church building.

MCLEANSVILLE, 1st CHURCH. The church was organized Dec. 31, 1871. Present membership, 143 ; males 58, females 85. Additions for the year, 10 ; deaths, 2 ; dismissions to form the 2d church, 17 ; adults baptized 9 ; infants 2. It has raised for benevolent purposes \$15,00 ; for church purposes \$18,65 ; for pastor's salary \$23,80. No. in Sabbath School 100. There are two weekly prayer-meetings,—one at the church, and the other is a neighborhood meeting. A revival last summer resulted in ten additions to the church. Some \$200,00 in money, materials and labor have been raised toward building the second church edifice. There have been in all 63 pupils in the Day School,—of these, six have taught school.

MCLEANSVILLE, 2nd CHURCH. This church was organized April 29, 1883. The pastor of the 1st church, the Rev. A. Connet, is also pastor of the 2nd, who has labored here as an out-sta-

tion since 1878. No. of members 17 ; males 10 ; females 7 ; no. in the Sabbath School 50. The church building is nearly completed, and was dedicated Apr. 29, 1883. The sermon was preached by J. E. Roy, D. D., our Field Superintendent. The church organization was consummated and the church recognized by council at above date. The A. M. A. gave \$100,00 towards the erection of the church. The community around manifest much interest in this new enterprise. The outlook is hopeful. Something has already been raised towards the support of the pastor.

LASSITER'S MILLS. No. church members 48 ; additions during the year, 9 ; exclusions or dismissions, none ; infant baptisms, 3 ; marriages, 3. Amount raised for church purposes, \$25,00. The church seems prosperous. Sprinkling, the mode of baptism. Sabbath School numbers 75, and is doing a good work. Temperance is believed in and practiced. The young have very generally given up the use of tobacco. No. pupils in the Day School, 67. The progress has been unusually good. Two of the students have been studying Theology. During the year it has been demonstrated anew, that a good *wife* is a wonderful helpmeet to a pastor, both in his church and school work.

RALEIGH. Nothing of *special* interest to report from this church. It still sustains the good reputation it has gained in this city. It is a growing power for good here. We are still blest with the services of our good pastor, Mr. Smith, and our good missionary, Miss Hayes. The church further reports as follows :

Contributed for current expenses, \$50,09 ; for benevolent purposes, \$9,06 ; for missionary purposes, \$14,41 ; for pastor's salary, \$66,38 ; Sabbath School contributed for its own support, \$52,08 ; for the sick, \$2,50 ; thus making a total of \$194,52.

No. of church members, 65 ; added, 3 ; dismissed, 2 ; expelled, 2 ; deaths, 0 ; no. of pupils away at school, at Hampton, Atlanta, Stockbridge and Grinnell, 36.

WILMINGTON. No material change in the church during the year. There is peace and harmony. The pastor true and faithful. A steady advance in what goes to make any church what it should be. It is a light in the city. No. of male members, 15 ; no. of female members, 22 ; total, 37 ; absent over a year, 2 ; added by profession, 1 ; by letter, 1 ; dismissed, 0 ; children baptized, 3. Benevolent contributions, \$8,46 ; raised for church purposes, \$59,87 ; towards pastor's salary. \$60,00 ; for Sabbath School, \$33,00 ; total, \$164,13. No. in the Sabbath School, 250.

PEKIN. The church is not in as good condition as one year

ago. The faithful preaching of Temperance, and the fact of Intemperance have had their influence. This is a new field, and it needs much thorough work, beginning at the very foundation. No. church members, 19 ; no. in Sabbath School, 60 ; raised for church purposes, \$26,00. Are making preparations for building a church edifice.

TROY. No. of church members, 16. We have a Sabbath School. We have preaching service Sab. evening. Have temperance meetings often. The church is not united. Several members have been expelled, and several young people have united with the church. The white people here respect our church and school work. No. in the Sab. School, 25 ; contributions of the church, the Pastor's board.

OAKS CHURCH. No. of members, 48. The church is *young*, but is a *live* church. We are soon going to build a house of worship. The delegate and three of the brethren have given land on which to build the church. We have a Sabbath School of 50 scholars. In a revival last Fall, there were 10 converts, and all united with the church. A *white* man has given most of the frame for the church building, and a number of other *white* men have promised to help us in building. There are usually more or less white people in our meetings. The 48 members have paid in \$50.00 the past year. The ordination of the Rev. J. N. Ray over our church as its pastor, which occurred but a few days since, was a most interesting and enjoyable occasion.

THE REPORTS OF THE MISSIONARY LADIES AND TEACHERS

were next called for,—only a brief outline of which is here given. As the schools and school-work has been incidentally referred to in connection with the Reports of the churches, but little more will be said of them.

MISS E. P. HAYS of Raleigh said, that it was not easy for her to report herself, or tell us what she was doing, or had done. She finds enough to do, and means to be busy. She superintends the Sabbath School, and that has been quite interesting this year. (On the Sabbath she gave the Association ample proof of her fit-

ness for this work, and her success in it.) She has worked in many different directions. She teaches sewing-schools and gardening,—gives practical, moral and religious instruction to children who come to her home,—she visits the sick, and gives counsel and instruction to mothers and daughters at their homes. She wants to be a *model* housekeeper for *example's* sake. No small part of her work is to reply to letters she receives from ladies at the North, asking what they can do for the colored people, and how best they can do it.

MISS ANNA E. FARRINGTON of Wilmington said her work was much like that just reported. She has many barrels of clothing to distribute,—teaches the girls to sew,—has charge of the reading room,—visits the homes of the school-children and others,—meets mothers and their daughters for prayer and religious conversation. Some of the girls have shown a deep interest in the subject of religion, and some have given evidence of conversion. She has distributed a good many tracts, papers and books among those who come to buy clothing,—has made more than 300 calls on families, conversing, reading and praying with them. Her work in the primary department of the sabbath school has been full of interest and encouragement.

MISS DOUGLASS, a veteran, who was with us and had been employed by the A. M. A. for 17 years, said that she was now a graduate from this work. As she gave us some account of her labors and experiences, we were reminded of those of the Great Apostle to the Gentiles. If all she said could be written out, it would read like a chapter in Dickens, only it would all be *true*. She has started a number of young men for the ministry. With improved health, she hopes soon again to go about her chosen work.

MRS. G. A. RUMBLEY, Teacher at Woodbridge, said there were eighty-five pupils in her Day School,—and fifty-five in her Sabbath School. The scholars are interested in both these schools. There are materials here for a church. There would be a good congregation. She wishes she could preach, but can't. A good fence has been made about the "Home buildings," and they have just been repaired to the amount of \$214.00.

MISS PETTIGREW, a missionary and teacher in the Shaw University, being present and invited to address the meeting, said that she taught five sewing schools,—gave Bible Lessons,—Lessons in

Hygiene,—teaches the girls how they should live, act, and take care of themselves. One great object was to teach young ladies, so that they may become teachers, fitted to go out and instruct others.

Mrs. J. E. B. JEWETT, Teacher at Dudley, said that the school there had been in session for six months. For four months it was a public school, and for two months a tuition school. In all there had been ninety-five different pupils. The school had been a pleasant one to manage and to teach. The scholars seemed interested in the school and in their studies. They are very respectful and confiding,—are not lacking in intelligence and application, and have made fair progress in their studies. She finds some scholars, who, she thinks, ought in some way to have the opportunity of fitting themselves for positions of great usefulness and influence as they grow up to manhood and womanhood.

The meeting was then adjourned to 9 A. M. to-morrow.

At 8 P. M., Friday, Rev. J. N. Ray preached before the Association. Text, Matt. 5, 10 and 11. The sermon was not wanting in excellent thoughts, well put.

THIRD DAY—SATURDAY.

The Association met at the hour appointed, and Bro. Ellis led in prayer.

The *Report* of the *Treasurer* was then called for, and Rev. A. Connet reported as follows :—

| | | |
|---|----------|-------|
| Total cash received from Asso. past year, | \$21,50— | 21 50 |
|---|----------|-------|

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|-------|
| “ paid out for printing Minutes | | |
| and other incidental expenses, | 20,75— | 20 75 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|
| Balance in the Treasury, | | <u>75</u> |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|

Voted, That the Treasurer retain this balance to remunerate him for postage paid for the Association, of which he had made no charge.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted and adopted.

A committee, composed of Bros. Connet, Ray and Jerkins, was appointed to investigate the claims of the National Council against the Association of the Cong'al Churches of N. C., and report at once to this body.

The Committee reported a claim of the National Council on us for past Assessments, and Assessments for the current year of \$17.54.

Voted, To accept this report, and settle up this whole matter here and now. In furtherance of the above vote, the Pastors of all our churches came forward to the present Treasurer and paid in, or pledged the proportional part of their respective churches in defraying the above amount.

Voted, That the word "Conference," as used in our Constitution and By-Laws,—and the name by which this body is now known, be, and hereby is changed to "Association,"—so as to read "*The Association of the Cong'al Churches of N. C.*"

Voted, That this Association recommend the adoption of the "New Constitution" of the American Missionary Association.

The hour of ten having come, there was next a Devotional meeting of one hour, conducted by Bro. Z. Simmons. It was a precious meeting.

At the close of the Devotional hour, Rev. J. E. Smith of Fayetteville, Rev. N. F. Roberts, pastor of the 2nd Baptist Church, in Raleigh, and Prof. J. S. Lea of Shaw University were invited to sit with us as visiting members.

The Association then proceeded to the examination for license to preach, of Mr. Z. Simmons, a member of the church at Dudley, and who for some months past has been studying Theology under the pastor of that church. After an examination of his religious experience,—his motives for wishing to preach the gospel, and his belief in, and knowledge of the great and fundamental doctrines of the Bible ; the examination was voted as satisfactory, and the usual license was granted him, signed by the moderator and secretary of this body.

At this stage of the session, the Revs. J. E. Champion, pastor of the M. E. Church, A. H. Smith, pastor of the M. E. Church, A. Newsome, pastor of of the Oberlin M. E. Church, A. M. Turner, pastor of the M. E. Church, David Schiveley and Thomas Mavory were invited to sit with us as visiting members.

The meeting then voted a recess till 3 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association came together as adjourned, and was called to order by the Moderator.

Business Committee reported as follows :—

Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the A. M. A., Primaries, —Rev. A. Connet and Dea. Stephens ; Alternates,—Bros. Powell and Matthews.

Delegates to the National Council,—Primaries,—Revs. J. E. B. Jewett and I. Walden ; Alternates,—Revs. W. H. Elliot and G. S. Smith.

The above Report was adopted.

An Essay was then read by Rev. W. H. Ellis,—Subject, “The Dignity of work among the Lowly.” The subject of the Essay was discussed by Smith, Walden, Dodge, J. E. Roy, D. D., and others.

The matter of adopting a course of Reading and Study next came before the meeting for consideration, and its importance advocated by several of the brethren.

Voted, That we do adopt a Course of Reading and Study.

Voted, That a Committee of 5 be raised, whose business it shall be to select a Course of Reading and Study for the members of the Association. And Revs. Connet, Smith and Jewett, and Miss Hayes and Miss Douglass were elected as this Committee.

Voted, That the next meeting of this Association be at Dudley, to begin the 1st Thursday in May, 1884.

Voted, That we appreciate the courtesy shown those attending this meeting by the Railroad Companies in reduction of fares,

Voted, That the thanks of this Association are deserved, which we hereby express to Bro. Smith, his people and other friends at Raleigh for their generous hospitality.

Voted, That the Secretary be instructed to prepare for publication and issue seven hundred copies of the Minutes of this meeting for distribution among the churches ; and that the estimated expense of publication be assessed on the churches, and paid in to the Treasurer, before the Minutes are issued.

Adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock this evening.

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION.

The meeting was called to order at the time appointed. A hard storm occasions a small attendance. The first business was the reading by the Secretary his Records of the meetings up to

this time, for the purpose of any necessary alterations or corrections.

Voted, That, in future, the Reports of the churches shall be presented in *writing*.

Voted, That, in case the principal and alternate delegates to the Annual Meeting of the A. M. A. or other Eccl. Bodies are unable to attend, the Secretary be authorized to give the requisite credentials to any others of our Body, who will attend, in the place of the regular appointees.

Meeting then adjourned to meet again in this place on Sabbath evening after the public services.

SABBATH—FOURTH DAY.

A lovely May Sabbath morning.

At 9 o'clock, by invitation, the Association met with the Sunday School in the 1st Cong'al Church, conducted by Miss E. P. Hayes. There was a general exercise of the school. The appearance, conduct and answers of the scholars would not suffer much in comparison with that of Sabbath School scholars north of Mason and Dixon's Line. Questions were asked and remarks made by Dr. J. E. Roy, Dodge, Jones, Jewett, Mrs. Jewett and others. It was an enlivening and enjoyable occasion.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. D. D. Dodge, by invitation, preached to the Congregation at Shaw University, and the Rev. I. Walden, at the 1st Presbyterian Colored Church. At 3 o'clock P. M., Rev. D. D. Dodge preached in the First Cong'al Church, a plain and pointed sermon on the all important virtues of "Temperance and Chastity," and at 8 o'clock, he addressed the Students at Shaw University. At the same hour, our Secretary, by invitation, preached at the 2nd Baptist Church, Text—"Show Thyself a Man."

There were public services in the 1st Congregational Church, in the evening, Sermon by J. E. Roy, D. D., Text,—John 7 37,—Subject:—"The Living Water," a most practical and impressive Sermon. After which followed the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Revs. M. Jerkins and I. Walden, officiating at the Table, and the Deas. of the Church, assisted by Deas. Blunt and Stephens, distributing the elements. It was a sweet season of the

communion of the Saints on earth, and a foretaste of the heavenly communion.

(In justice to our Baptist Brethren, it should be said that on Monday Morning a large number of our Pastors and Delegates were present at the opening exercises of the Shaw University, and through the courtesy of the Pres. your Secretary was asked to conduct the Devotional Exercises.)

At the close of the Services, the moderator said that he was authorized to announce the Association as finally adjourned to meet at Dudley, the 1st Thursday, in May, 1884.

D. D. DODGE, *Moderator.*

✓
J. E. B. JEWETT, *Secretary.*



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